

REMARKS

The present response is submitted in response to the Notice of Non-compliant Amendment dated November 23, 2004, which set a one-month period for response, making a response due by December 23, 2004.

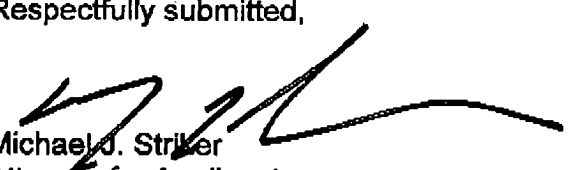
Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

In the Notice, the "amendments to the claims" section of the Applicants' amendment filed November 11, 2004 was objected to because claim 1 did not include a status indicator.

In the present response, the Applicants have submitted a replacement "amendments to the claims" section, in which claim 1 includes the status indicator "currently amended". Claims 2-18 include the previously designated status indicators. The amendments to any of claims 1-18 in this response are identical to those made to the claims in the November 11, 2004 amendment.

If any further issues remain to be resolved prior to the substantive examination of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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